Loan for use of solar energy

2885. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to treat renewable energy sector as a separate segment for the purpose of bank loans in order to increase solar energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), the non-banking financial institution under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy provides loans for new and renewable energy equipment and projects, including solar energy systems. IREDA and 28 other financial institutions and banks are implementing the interest subsidy scheme of the Ministry for solar water heating systems. Loans at effective interest rate of 2 to 5% for different categories of users are available under the scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

Village electrification through solar and bio-gas energy

2886. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achieved in village electrification through solar and bio-gas energy in each State during each of the last two years;

(b) whether Government has launched any new scheme to provide solar and bio-gas energy to rural areas of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing the Remote Village Electrification Programme for providing basic facilities of lighting/electricity in those remote, unelectrified census villages and remote unelectrified hamlets of electrified census villages, where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective and which are not covered under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. Such facilities are provided through various renewable energy sources including solar and biogas energy. No State-wise allocation of targets is made under the programme and projects are provided financial support on a case-to-case basis from the proposals received from the State Governments. State-wise details of villages and hamlets sanctioned support under the Programme for provision of solar energy systems, during the last two years, are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below). No project based on biogas energy has so far been taken up for Remote Village Electrification.

(b) and (c) Comprehensive schemes for promotion of solar and biogas energy for meeting a variety of applications in the country, including those in rural areas, are already being implemented by the Ministry. For rural areas, the solar energy schemes aim at promotion of devices such as homelighting systems, lanterns, pumps, cookers, etc., through part subsidy. The eligibility criteria and amount of subsidy depend upon the device and category of user.